

May 2004

Dear Interested Parties:

As many of you know, the Department of Commerce is seeking input as we develop our next 5-year expenditure plan for distributing federal and state funds for a variety of housing, community, and economic development programs.

Over the past 23 years, we have directed millions of dollars to local units of government, businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout the state to assist with critical needs. These funds have assisted in financing business start-ups and expansions, water and sewer projects, community facilities, new industrial parks and brownsfield redevelopment. They have also funded projects and activities that expand affordable housing opportunities and providing services to our homeless and special needs citizens. A table summarizing our programs is attached.

As we look forward to the next five years, we would like your input on whether your local housing, community, and economic development needs are being adequately served by these programs. We welcome suggestions on program modifications or new initiatives that would enable us to better meet your needs.

We invite you to participate in regional roundtable discussions to be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the locations on the attached announcement. In addition, you may obtain more information and periodic updates via the Department of Commerce website, at www.commerce.wi.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our programs and for your support in helping us define and achieve our goals for the next five years.

Sincerely,

James O'Keefe, Administrator
Division of Community Development

Jamie Wall, Administrator
Division of Business Development